

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 141

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR NODLER.

Pre-filed January 3, 2005, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

0641S.011

AN ACT

To repeal sections 301.550 and 301.560, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the licensure of dealers who sell emergency vehicles.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 301.550 and 301.560, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 301.550 and 301.560, to read as follows:

301.550. 1. The definitions contained in section 301.010 shall apply to sections 301.550 to 301.573, and in addition as used in sections 301.550 to 301.573, the following terms mean:

(1) "Boat dealer", any natural person, partnership, or corporation who, for a commission or with an intent to make a profit or gain of money or other thing of value, sells, barter, exchanges, leases or rents with the option to purchase, offers, attempts to sell, or negotiates the sale of any vessel or vessel trailer, whether or not the vessel or vessel trailer is owned by such person. The sale of six or more vessels or vessel trailers or both in any calendar year shall be required as evidence that such person is eligible for licensure as a boat dealer under sections 301.550 to 301.573. The boat dealer shall demonstrate eligibility for renewal of his license by selling six or more vessels or vessel trailers or both in the prior calendar year while licensed as a boat dealer pursuant to sections 301.550 to 301.573;

(2) "Boat manufacturer", any person engaged in the manufacturing, assembling or modification of new vessels or vessel trailers as a regular business, including a person, partnership or corporation which acts for and is under the control of a manufacturer or

EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

assembly in connection with the distribution of vessels or vessel trailers;

(3) "Department", the Missouri department of revenue;

(4) "Director", the director of the Missouri department of revenue;

(5) **"Emergency vehicles", motor vehicles used as ambulances, law enforcement vehicles, and fire apparatus;**

(6) "Manufacturer", any person engaged in the manufacturing, assembling or modification of new motor vehicles or trailers as a regular business, including a person, partnership or corporation which acts for and is under the control of a manufacturer or assembly in connection with the distribution of motor vehicles or accessories for motor vehicles;

[(6)] (7) "Motor vehicle broker", a person who holds himself out through solicitation, advertisement, or otherwise as one who offers to arrange a transaction involving the retail sale of a motor vehicle, and who is not:

(a) A dealer, or any agent, or any employee of a dealer when acting on behalf of a dealer;

(b) A manufacturer, or any agent, or employee of a manufacturer when acting on behalf of a manufacturer;

(c) The owner of the vehicle involved in the transaction; or

(d) A public motor vehicle auction or wholesale motor vehicle auction where buyers are licensed dealers in this or any other jurisdiction;

[(7)] (8) "Motor vehicle dealer" or "dealer", any person who, for commission or with an intent to make a profit or gain of money or other thing of value, sells, barter, exchanges, leases or rents with the option to purchase, or who offers or attempts to sell or negotiates the sale of motor vehicles or trailers whether or not the motor vehicles or trailers are owned by such person; provided, however, an individual auctioneer or auction conducted by an auctioneer licensed pursuant to chapter 343, RSMo, shall not be included within the definition of a motor vehicle dealer. The sale of six or more motor vehicles or trailers in any calendar year shall be required as evidence that such person is engaged in the motor vehicle business and is eligible for licensure as a motor vehicle dealer under sections 301.550 to 301.573;

[(8)] (9) "New motor vehicle", any motor vehicle being transferred for the first time from a manufacturer, distributor or new vehicle dealer which has not been registered or titled in this state or any other state and which is offered for sale, barter or exchange by a dealer who is franchised to sell, barter or exchange that particular make of motor vehicle. The term "new motor vehicle" shall not include manufactured homes, as defined in section 700.010, RSMo;

[(9)] (10) "New motor vehicle franchise dealer", any motor vehicle dealer who has been franchised to deal in a certain make of motor vehicle by the manufacturer or distributor

of that make and motor vehicle and who may, in line with conducting his business as a franchise dealer, sell, barter or exchange used motor vehicles;

[(10)] **(11)** "Person" includes an individual, a partnership, corporation, an unincorporated society or association, joint venture or any other entity;

[(11)] **(12)** "Powersport dealer", any motor vehicle dealer who sells, either pursuant to a franchise agreement or otherwise, primarily motor vehicles including but not limited to motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and personal watercraft, as those terms are defined in this chapter and chapter 306, RSMo;

[(12)] **(13)** "Public motor vehicle auction", any person, firm or corporation who takes possession of a motor vehicle whether by consignment, bailment or any other arrangement, except by title, for the purpose of selling motor vehicles at a public auction by a licensed auctioneer;

[(13)] **(14)** "Storage lot", an area, within the same city or county where a dealer may store excess vehicle inventory;

[(14)] **(15)** "Used motor vehicle", any motor vehicle which is not a new motor vehicle, as defined in sections 301.550 to 301.573, and which has been sold, bartered, exchanged or given away or which may have had a title issued in this state or any other state, or a motor vehicle so used as to be what is commonly known as a secondhand motor vehicle. In the event of an assignment of the statement of origin from an original franchise dealer to any individual or other motor vehicle dealer other than a new motor vehicle franchise dealer of the same make, the vehicle so assigned shall be deemed to be a used motor vehicle and a certificate of ownership shall be obtained in the assignee's name. The term "used motor vehicle" shall not include manufactured homes, as defined in section 700.010, RSMo;

[(15)] **(16)** "Used motor vehicle dealer", any motor vehicle dealer who is not a new motor vehicle franchise dealer;

[(16)] **(17)** "Vessel", every boat and watercraft defined as a vessel in section 306.010, RSMo;

[(17)] **(18)** "Vessel trailer", any trailer, as defined by section 301.010 which is designed and manufactured for the purposes of transporting vessels;

[(18)] **(19)** "Wholesale motor vehicle auction", any person, firm or corporation in the business of providing auction services solely in wholesale transactions at its established place of business in which the purchasers are motor vehicle dealers licensed by this or any other jurisdiction, and which neither buys, sells nor owns the motor vehicles it auctions in the ordinary course of its business. Except as required by law with regard to the auction sale of a government owned motor vehicle, a wholesale motor vehicle auction shall not provide auction services in connection with the retail sale of a motor vehicle;

[(19)] **(20)** "Wholesale motor vehicle dealer", a motor vehicle dealer who sells motor vehicles only to other new motor vehicle franchise dealers or used motor vehicle dealers or

via auctions limited to other dealers of any class.

2. For purposes of sections 301.550 to 301.573, neither the term "motor vehicle" nor the term "trailer" shall include manufactured homes, as defined in section 700.010, RSMo.

3. Dealers shall be divided into classes as follows:

- (1) Boat dealers;
- (2) Franchised new motor vehicle dealers;
- (3) Used motor vehicle dealers;
- (4) Wholesale motor vehicle dealers;
- (5) Recreational motor vehicle dealers;
- (6) Historic motor vehicle dealers;
- (7) Classic motor vehicle dealers; and
- (8) Powersport dealers.

301.560. 1. In addition to the application forms prescribed by the department, each applicant shall submit the following to the department:

(1) Every application other than a renewal application for a motor vehicle franchise dealer shall include a certification that the applicant has a bona fide established place of business. When the application is being made for licensure as a manufacturer, motor vehicle dealer, wholesale motor vehicle dealer, wholesale motor vehicle auction or a public motor vehicle auction, certification shall be performed by a uniformed member of the Missouri state highway patrol stationed in the troop area in which the applicant's place of business is located; except, that in counties of the first classification, certification may be performed by an officer of a metropolitan police department when the applicant's established place of business of distributing or selling motor vehicles or trailers is in the metropolitan area where the certifying metropolitan police officer is employed. When the application is being made for licensure as a boat manufacturer or boat dealer, certification shall be performed by a uniformed member of the Missouri state water patrol stationed in the district area in which the applicant's place of business is located or by a uniformed member of the Missouri state highway patrol stationed in the troop area in which the applicant's place of business is located or, if the applicant's place of business is located within the jurisdiction of a metropolitan police department in a first class county, by an officer of such metropolitan police department. A bona fide established place of business for any new motor vehicle franchise dealer or used motor vehicle dealer shall include a permanent enclosed building or structure, either owned in fee or leased and actually occupied as a place of business by the applicant for the selling, bartering, trading or exchanging of motor vehicles or trailers and wherein the public may contact the owner or operator at any reasonable time, and wherein shall be kept and maintained the books, records, files and other matters required and necessary to conduct the business. The applicant's place of business shall contain a working telephone which shall be maintained during the entire registration year. In order to qualify

as a bona fide established place of business for all applicants licensed pursuant to this section there shall be an exterior sign displayed carrying the name of the business set forth in letters at least six inches in height and clearly visible to the public and there shall be an area or lot which shall not be a public street on which one or more vehicles may be displayed, except when licensure is for a wholesale motor vehicle dealer, a lot and sign shall not be required. The sign shall contain the name of the dealership by which it is known to the public through advertising or otherwise, which need not be identical to the name appearing on the dealership's license so long as such name is registered as a fictitious name with the secretary of state, has been approved by its line-make manufacturer in writing in the case of a new motor vehicle franchise dealer and a copy of such fictitious name registration has been provided to the department. When licensure is for a boat dealer, a lot shall not be required. In the case of new motor vehicle franchise dealers, the bona fide established place of business shall include adequate facilities, tools and personnel necessary to properly service and repair motor vehicles and trailers under their franchisor's warranty. **Dealers who sell only emergency vehicles as defined in section 301.550 are exempt from maintaining a bona fide place of business including the related law enforcement certification requirements, and from meeting the minimum yearly sales;**

(2) If the application is for licensure as a manufacturer, boat manufacturer, new motor vehicle franchise dealer, used motor vehicle dealer, wholesale motor vehicle auction, boat dealer or a public motor vehicle auction, a photograph, not to exceed eight inches by ten inches, showing the business building and sign shall accompany the initial application. In the case of a manufacturer, new motor vehicle franchise dealer or used motor vehicle dealer, the photograph shall include the lot of the business. A new motor vehicle franchise dealer applicant who has purchased a currently licensed new motor vehicle franchised dealership shall be allowed to submit a photograph of the existing dealership building, lot and sign but shall be required to submit a new photograph upon the installation of the new dealership sign as required by sections 301.550 to 301.573. Applicants shall not be required to submit a photograph annually unless the business has moved from its previously licensed location, or unless the name of the business or address has changed, or unless the class of business has changed;

(3) If the application is for licensure as a wholesale motor vehicle dealer or as a boat dealer, the application shall contain the business address, not a post office box, and telephone number of the place where the books, records, files and other matters required and necessary to conduct the business are located and where the same may be inspected during normal daytime business hours. Wholesale motor vehicle dealers and boat dealers shall file reports as required of new franchised motor vehicle dealers and used motor vehicle dealers;

(4) Every applicant as a new motor vehicle franchise dealer, a used motor vehicle dealer, a wholesale motor vehicle dealer, or boat dealer shall furnish with the application a

corporate surety bond or an irrevocable letter of credit as defined in section 400.5-103, RSMo, issued by any state or federal financial institution in the penal sum of twenty-five thousand dollars on a form approved by the department. The bond or irrevocable letter of credit shall be conditioned upon the dealer complying with the provisions of the statutes applicable to new motor vehicle franchise dealers, used motor vehicle dealers, wholesale motor vehicle dealers and boat dealers, and the bond shall be an indemnity for any loss sustained by reason of the acts of the person bonded when such acts constitute grounds for the suspension or revocation of the dealer's license. The bond shall be executed in the name of the state of Missouri for the benefit of all aggrieved parties or the irrevocable letter of credit shall name the state of Missouri as the beneficiary; except, that the aggregate liability of the surety or financial institution to the aggrieved parties shall, in no event, exceed the amount of the bond or irrevocable letter of credit. The proceeds of the bond or irrevocable letter of credit shall be paid upon receipt by the department of a final judgment from a Missouri court of competent jurisdiction against the principal and in favor of an aggrieved party;

(5) Payment of all necessary license fees as established by the department. In establishing the amount of the annual license fees, the department shall, as near as possible, produce sufficient total income to offset operational expenses of the department relating to the administration of sections 301.550 to 301.573. All fees payable pursuant to the provisions of sections 301.550 to 301.573, other than those fees collected for the issuance of dealer plates or certificates of number collected pursuant to subsection 6 of this section, shall be collected by the department for deposit in the state treasury to the credit of the "Motor Vehicle Commission Fund", which is hereby created. The motor vehicle commission fund shall be administered by the Missouri department of revenue. The provisions of section 33.080, RSMo, to the contrary notwithstanding, money in such fund shall not be transferred and placed to the credit of the general revenue fund until the amount in the motor vehicle commission fund at the end of the biennium exceeds two times the amount of the appropriation from such fund for the preceding fiscal year or, if the department requires permit renewal less frequently than yearly, then three times the appropriation from such fund for the preceding fiscal year. The amount, if any, in the fund which shall lapse is that amount in the fund which exceeds the multiple of the appropriation from such fund for the preceding fiscal year.

2. In the event a new manufacturer, boat manufacturer, motor vehicle dealer, wholesale motor vehicle dealer, boat dealer, wholesale motor vehicle auction or a public motor vehicle auction submits an application for a license for a new business and the applicant has complied with all the provisions of this section, the department shall make a decision to grant or deny the license to the applicant within eight working hours after receipt of the dealer's application, notwithstanding any rule of the department.

3. Upon the initial issuance of a license by the department, the department shall

assign a distinctive dealer license number or certificate of number to the applicant and the department shall issue one number plate or certificate bearing the distinctive dealer license number or certificate of number within eight working hours after presentment of the application. Upon the renewal of a boat dealer, boat manufacturer, manufacturer, motor vehicle dealer, public motor vehicle auction, wholesale motor vehicle dealer or wholesale motor vehicle auction, the department shall issue the distinctive dealer license number or certificate of number as quickly as possible. The issuance of such distinctive dealer license number or certificate of number shall be in lieu of registering each motor vehicle, trailer, vessel or vessel trailer dealt with by a boat dealer, boat manufacturer, manufacturer, public motor vehicle auction, wholesale motor vehicle dealer, wholesale motor vehicle auction or motor vehicle dealer.

4. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law to the contrary, the department shall assign the following distinctive dealer license numbers to:

New motor vehicle franchise dealers	D-0 through D-999
New motor vehicle franchise and commercial motor vehicle dealers	D-1000 through D-1999
Used motor vehicle dealers	D-2000 through D-5399 and D-6000 through D-9999
Wholesale motor vehicle dealers	W-1000 through W-1999
Wholesale motor vehicle auctions	W-2000 through W-2999
Trailer dealers	T-0 through T-9999
Motor vehicle and trailer manufacturers	M-0 through M-9999
Motorcycle dealers	D-5400 through D-5999
Public motor vehicle auctions	A-1000 through A-1999
Boat dealers and boat manufacturers	B-0 through B-9999

5. Upon the sale of a currently licensed new motor vehicle franchise dealership the department shall, upon request, authorize the new approved dealer applicant to retain the selling dealer's license number and shall cause the new dealer's records to indicate such transfer.

6. In the case of manufacturers and motor vehicle dealers, the department shall also issue one number plate bearing the distinctive dealer license number to the applicant upon payment by the manufacturer or dealer of a fifty dollar fee. Such license plates shall be made with fully reflective material with a common color scheme and design, shall be clearly visible at night, and shall be aesthetically attractive, as prescribed by section 301.130. Boat dealers and boat manufacturers shall be entitled to one certificate of number bearing such number upon the payment of a fifty dollar fee. As many additional number plates as may be desired by manufacturers and motor vehicle dealers and as many additional certificates of number as may be desired by boat dealers and boat manufacturers may be obtained upon

payment of a fee of ten dollars and fifty cents for each additional plate or certificate. A motor vehicle dealer, boat dealer, manufacturer, boat manufacturer, public motor vehicle auction, wholesale motor vehicle dealer or wholesale motor vehicle auction obtaining a dealer license plate or certificate of number or additional license plate or additional certificate of number, throughout the calendar year, shall be required to pay a fee for such license plates or certificates of number computed on the basis of one-twelfth of the full fee prescribed for the original and duplicate number plates or certificates of number for such dealers' licenses, multiplied by the number of months remaining in the licensing period for which the dealer or manufacturers shall be required to be licensed. In the event of a renewing dealer, the fee due at the time of renewal shall not be prorated.

7. The plates issued pursuant to subsection 3 or 6 of this section may be displayed on any motor vehicle owned and held for resale by the motor vehicle dealer or manufacturer, and used by a customer who is test driving the motor vehicle, or is used by an employee or officer, but shall not be displayed on any motor vehicle or trailer hired or loaned to others or upon any regularly used service or wrecker vehicle. Motor vehicle dealers may display their dealer plates on a tractor, truck or trailer to demonstrate a vehicle under a loaded condition.

8. The certificates of number issued pursuant to subsection 3 or 6 of this section may be displayed on any vessel or vessel trailer owned and held for resale by a boat manufacturer or a boat dealer, and used by a customer who is test driving the vessel or vessel trailer, or is used by an employee or officer, but shall not be displayed on any vessel or vessel trailer hired or loaned to others or upon any regularly used service vessel or vessel trailer. Boat dealers and manufacturers may display their certificate of number on a vessel or vessel trailer which is being transported to an exhibit or show.

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